

ABSTRACT

Interactive system for responding to conditions after an answering machine has been detected in an automatic telephone number dialing and announcing system so that realistic sounding recorded messages can be delivered without truncation. The system starts by: placing a telephone call to an answering machine; playing a recorded message onto the answering machine; monitoring the machine for echo cancellation sounds (sounds emanating from the answering machine) while simultaneously playing the message; repeating the playing of said message onto the answering machine while monitoring for echo cancellation sounds; and continuing to play the message until there are no echo cancellation sounds whereby the recorded message is launched onto the answering machine and continues playing the message to completion. If there are greater than three occurrences of echo cancellation sounds, then the system avoids further resetting steps and proceeds to play the recorded message onto the answering machine without further interruption.